

REMARKS

Claims 10, 17-20, 26, and 28-39 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 3-35 were presented for examination. Claims 1, 3-9, 11-16, 21-25, and 27 have been cancelled and claims 36-39 have been added by amendment.

In the office action mailed September 20, 2004 (the "Office Action"), claims 3 and 4 were objected to based on informalities and claims 1 and 3-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 3, 10, 20, 21, 25-28, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,230,039 to Grossman *et al.* (the "Grossman patent"). Claims 4-9, 11-19, 22-24, 29-32, 34, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Grossman patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,366,290 to Dye *et al.* (the "Dye patent").

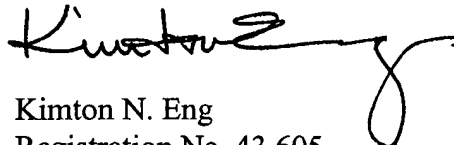
Claims 1 and 3-9 have been cancelled. As a result, the Examiner's objection to claims 3 and 4, and the rejection of claims 1 and 3-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are now moot.

As discussed in the telephone interview with Examiners Wang and Razavi on January 7, 2005, claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 12. New claims 36-39 have been added to claim the subject matter of claims 14 and 16 (along with dependent claim 20), which are now cancelled.

The amendments made to claims 10, 17-19, 26, 28-30, and 32-34, have been made to expedite the allowance of allowable subject matter. The amendments, however, should not be interpreted as reflecting Applicant's belief that the subject matter of the unamended claims is unpatentable, or that the Applicant has forfeited the subject matter of the unamended claims. Therefore, the presumption that Applicant has tacitly acknowledged the merit of the Examiner's rejections or that the references cited by the Examiner are relevant to the patentability of the present invention should not be made.

All of the pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures:

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